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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Re Application of: ABRIGNANI, S. *et al.*

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Serial No.: 09/509,612

Group Art Unit: 1643

Filed : March 29, 2000

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 AND §1.97(b)(3)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The citations listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Form PTO-1449 may be material to the examination of the above-identified patent application. Therefore, Applicant submits these documents in compliance with the duty of disclosure as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97(b)(3). The Examiner is requested to make these citations of official record in the present application.

Applicants also enclose herewith a copy of the PCT International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/IB98/01628, mailed February 18, 1999.

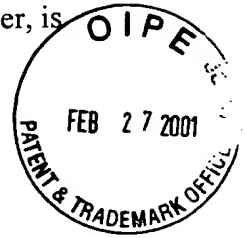
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore, no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97(b)(3) is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that these citations constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103.


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 16th day of February, 2001.
By Hepeanogalsis

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 03-1664. This, however, is not an authorization for payment of Issue Fee.

Respectfully submitted,



By:


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February 16, 2001

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